

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on December 27, 2006, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 1-13 were pending. By this paper, Applicants cancel claims 1, 3, 11, 12 and 13, and add claims 14 and 15. Therefore, claims 2, 4-10 and 14-15 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Chin for the indication that claims 3-9 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 10-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tange (United States Patent Publication No. 2003/0195667). In response, in order to advance prosecution, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants have cancelled claim 1, amended claim 2 to incorporate the recitations of allowable claim 3 therein, amended claim 10 to incorporate the recitations of allowable claim 12 therein, and cancelled claims 11 and 13. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-2, 10-11 and 13 is now moot in view of the above amendments.

New Claims

As seen above, Applicants have added new claims 14 and 15. These claims are allowable for at least the same reasons that render claim 1 allowable, as claim 14 parallels

claim 2, except for its use of means-plus-function language, and claim 15 recites a method concomitant with the device of claim 1.

Support for these new claims may be found, among other places, at claims 2 and 3, as originally filed.

Conclusion

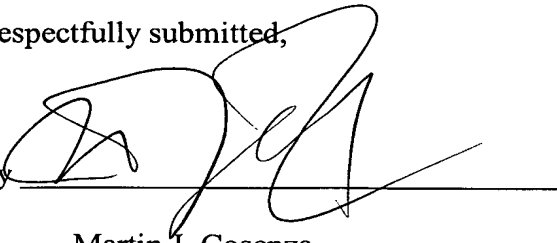
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Chin is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Martin J. Cosenza
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 48,892

Date April 27, 2006

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 295-4747
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399